PETITION TO OPPOSE AMERICAN MISSAL

6,972 Episcopalians Sign One Asking Convention at Denver to Forbid Use in Churches.

DR. ROBINSON IS ASSAILED

Prayer Book Custodian's Approval of Manual Causes Hints of Demand for Resignation.

The Rev. Dr. Lucian Moore Robinson, custodian of the Standard Book of Common Prayer, will be severely criticised for having put his imprimatur upon the American Missal by the evangelical or liberal group of the Protestant Episcopal Church at the fiftieth triennial General Convention, which will open on Wednesday in Denver, it was revealed yesterday.

The American Missal, which was issued recently under the auspices of leaders of the Anglo-Catholic group, is alleged by the opposing group to be an imitation of the Roman Catholic Missal. Fifty-two Bishops have put themselves on record as opposing its use in Protestant Episcopal churches.

A number of the Low Churchmen are going so far as to predict that the resignation of Dr. Robinson will be sought as custodian of the Book of Common Prayer, which is the only official book of worship of the Protestant Episcopal Church. They assert that by putting his imprimatur on the Missal he violated Article X and Canon 46 of the constitution of the Church.

Dr. Robinson, who is 73 years old, is professor emeritus at the Philadelphia Protestant Episcopal Divinity School, and lives at Arlington Heights, Boston. In 1917 he succeeded the late Rev. Dr. Samuel Hart as custodian of the Book of Common Prayer.

6,972 Sign Petition.

A petition, which a group of the leaders of the evangelical group will take to Denver for presentation to the House of Bishops and to the House of Clerical and Lay Deputies, has 6,972 signatures, representing communicants in 424 parishes of 61 dioceses. It says:

"Whereas many of our Bishops, several of our diocesan conventions, a great number of our clergy and, we believe, an overwhelming majority of the laity, men and women of our Church, are of the opinion that the use in any diocese or missionary district of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America of the book commonly known as The American Missal means the introduction of Romish practices and the substitution of the service of the mass for the prayer book service of the holy communion, and constitutes a violation of the constitution and canons of the government of such Church as adopted by its general convention and especially of Article X and Canon 46, and, further, that the supposed certificate of comparison and conformity contained in the said The American Missal and signed by the custodian of the standard Book of Common Prayer, also constitutes a violation of Article X and Canon 46 and is void.

"Therefore we, the undersigned adult communicants of the Protestant Episcopal Church, do most earnestly memorialize our Bishops, clerical deputies and lay de ties in general convention assembled in their respective houses:

"First: To declare that the use in any diocese or missionary district of said book, commonly known as the American Missal, recently published by the Morehouse Publishing Company of Milwaukee, Wis., constitutes a violation of the Constitution and Canons of said Church as adopted by its general convention, and especially of Article X and Canon 46 thereof.

Would Hold Certificate Void.

"Second: To declare that the supposed certificate of comparison and conformity therein contained, signed by the custodian of the Standard Book of Common Prayer, is unauthorized and void.

"Third: To take measures in its opinion to prevent violation of such Constitution and Canons by further use of said The American Missal.

"And we do further memorialize our Bishops, clerical deputies and lay deputies from their respective houses of legislation to send a message of assurance that the name, the doctrine, the ceremonies and nomenclature of our Church, and her missionary purpose and her fraternal love for all Christian people, are and should be as expressed in the Book of Common Prayer."

BISHOP PERRY GIVES HIS DIVORCE VIEWS

In Sermon, Anticipating Denver Convention, He Opposes Any Church Ruling.

DENVER, Sept. 13 (AP).—The Rt. Rev. James De Wolf Perry, bishop of Rhode Island and presiding bishop of the Episcopal Church, in a sermon today advised the fiftieth general convention of the Church, opening here Wednesday, that the bonds of matrimony were subject only to divine will.

"Christian marriage rises above the consideration of expediency and of human desire," he asserted.

Commenting on another problem expected to come before the convention, Bishop Perry said the Church by posing in its corporate capacity as an arbitrator of civic institutions and economic institutions, would be guilty of "something worse than futile interference."

Bishop Perry noted the movement for unity of the Church.

"The essence of unity in the whole body is the soundness of each of the several units," he said. "By the same token, the corporate strength of Christendom is found in singleness of thought and purpose within one household of faith. It is well for a church charged as is our own, with world-wide responsibilities, to consider this on the eve of a momentous legislative session."

Of marriage and divorce, Bishop Perry said that whatever legislation or social custom might be woven around it, giving or withdrawing public sanction, "the bonds between husband and wife once sealed in the name of God, are subject not to the will of man but to divine will."

"It is in bearing witness to his law that the Church as the third party in a marriage contract has its single function to perform, blessing what God has blessed, holding in union those whom he has declared to be one flesh.

"Other disposition of marriage made by the State through divorce or annulment, or the legalization of polygamy in any form, can be viewed by Christians only as an existing fact, admitted as an expedient for the satisfaction of personal desires and of public demand.

"For the Church to legislate upon such matters would be to place its seal of consent or disapproval upon procedures which lie beneath its rightful province. Christian marriage rises above consideration of expediency and of human desire."